

14

*

THE
SEAT OF GOVERNMENT
OF
CANADA,
ITS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
AND
“DOUBLE MAJORITY” QUESTION.

THIS much vexed point has again become one of the leading questions of the day. (1843.) No measure of colonial legislation, however important, either proceeding from the Home Government, or originating in the Colony, has been treated with so much importance, or agitated with so much warmth, as the question of the permanent locality of the Capital of Canada,—if the measure of that importance and that warmth be taken from the degree of rancour and scurrility which seems to have influenced the contending parties. The subject has been universally discussed, in Upper Canada at least, with that indecent heat which ever betrays the predominance of selfish interests over reason and principle. The imaginations of the different disputants have been extremely fertile in the invention of reasons in favor of their own particular localities; and hence no subject has ever been discussed with a more slavish adherence to sectional interests, nor a more barefaced disregard of the merits of the question in the abstract. The advocates of each rival locality exaggerate its real or supposed superiority in regard to some one point, which, either from instinct or necessity, they treat as the sole essential requisite,—the *sine qua non* of the question, to be considered to the exclusion of all other advantages,—disdaining, or more probably not daring to put the question on its true basis, and dispassionately to enquire,—what place or city in Canada possesses the greatest combination of all the essential requisites for the permanent location of the seat of Government.

The simple question is :—Which is the most advantageous place in Canada, for the permanent establishment of its seat of Government, *all things considered*?—In order to arrive at a sound and impartial conclusion, let it first be ascertained what are the main points to be considered in making the selection, without reference to any particular locality.—The great requisites for the Capital of Canada would seem to present themselves in the following order:—

- 1o. Security from foreign invasion.
- 2o. Easy and rapid communication with the Metropolitan State in peace and in war.
- 3o. Centrality.
- 4o. Salubrity.